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Flapjack the pony dons a pair of bunny ears as he welcomed visitors to the paddock on April 19 at Abbey Gardens during their Easter in the Gardens springtime event. /TIM YANO staff photographer

Measles outbreak shows vaccines' importance

by **JAMES MATTHEWS**
Times Staff

The region under the umbrella of the Haliburton Kawartha Northumberland Peterborough public health unit remains un-

touched by Ontario's measles outbreak.

Dr. Thomas Piggott, the HKNP Health Unit's medical officer of health, said during the board's April 16 meeting that there has been no local confirmed cases of measles.

"But there continues to be lots of additional cases provincially," he said.

According to provincial public health updates, there have been 816 confirmed cases in Ontario since last fall, he said.

"Which is significant," Piggott said. "It's exponential compared to recent years and that's really because vaccination rates have fallen."

see MEASLES page 2

Minden on 'constant watch' for flooding

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Editor

It's touch and go right now, but the staff from Minden Hills are optimistic about pending flood risks. "So far, it looks okay," said Minden Mayor Bob Carter. "But we are going to be on a flood watch for the next two weeks."

Currently, the waters through the Gull River seem stable through the village, with levels managed by Parks Canada and the Ministry of Natural Resources. Staff and councillors meet with these organizations multiple times a week to monitor conditions.

In light of the ice storm that slammed Haliburton County the last weekend of March, many wash-outs have been caused not by increasing water levels, but by debris clogging up the culverts. "With all the debris from the storm, we are seeing more frequent blockages," said Carter.

The Township noted that all municipal roadways have been cleared for vehicular traffic, though the sides of the road continue to be cluttered with fallen trees and branches. "To support Minden Hills residents in cleanup efforts after the recent ice storm, the Township is waiving disposal fees until further notice," shared a Minden Hills press

see DEBRIS page 2



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Debris from ice storm causes problems

from page 1

release. "Brush will be accepted at the Scotch Line Landfill only during this time." Currently, the Township has not announced an end-date for waiving these fees, and shared that they will provide ample notice when the time comes.

It was noted that a community clean-up is being developed in an effort to remove the debris and mitigate washouts. The event is being organized by the County of Haliburton in partnership with the Township of Minden Hills. No further information is available on the date at this time, but will be made public once confirmed.

The Township of Minden Hills has decided to continue their state of emergency, which has lasted the duration of the month of April thus far. "This is due to the March ice storm as well as the weather forecast for this coming week and the continued spring freshet (snowmelt)," shared a Minden press release.

While the majority of snow has melted in the residential areas of the municipalities, there continues to be an accumulation at the top of the watershed. That melt, combined with precipitation levels, could result in flooding issues down the road.

"We think it will peak about two weeks from now," said Carter. "But we are going to be on constant watch, and constant patrolling."

If needed, sandbags and sand are available in the parking lot of the Minden Curling Club, located at 50 Prentice Street, as well as the Irondale Community Centre, located at 1004 Line Drive Road.

A reminder that all waterways are moving extremely quickly right now, and have unpredictable patterns this time of year. All residents are reminded to stay away from moving water until the levels have stabilized.

Minden Hills staff are currently working on removing all debris wherever they can. If residents see debris that needs to be removed, they are encouraged to call an after-hours number to report township road conditions, which is directed to an on-call staff member.

The number is 1-866-856-3247.



Hunting for eggs

Rain didn't keep the Easter Bunny from visiting Abbey Gardens on April 19. The full-day event hosted kids of all ages to check out Easter crafts, play with the local ponies, and explore the forest for Easter eggs. /TIM YANO staff photographer



Measles 'still potentially fatal' says experts

from page 1

Those 816 cases stretch across 15 of the province's 29 public health units. Focused further, more than half of those cases are in regions served by two public health units with

key communities that have had very low vaccine uptake.

Despite 61 hospitalizations, there have been no deaths during the current outbreak, he said.

Local public health officials reported just last month that there were 350 cases across 11 health units, including neighbouring public health units.

"We did see a death in Ontario a couple of years ago from measles, so we know this is still a potentially fatal illness," Piggott said. "Sixty-one hospitalizations, that's a lot of people very severely sick from measles."

Teams with the local public health unit continue preparations to respond should HKNP be drawn into the outbreak geography.

Piggott said in March that preparations include ongoing school surveillance, public education awareness, and ensuring contact tracing readiness.

The outbreak has come as close as Hastings County and Simcoe County. The challenge presented by a large outbreak like the current one is vaccine effectiveness. Two doses of the vaccine has proven to be 97 per cent effective, he said.

"The way to arrest measles in its tracks is to increase vaccine coverage," he said. "And one of the most important

strategies we have to do is hard work, supporting access to vaccines, and enforcing the Immunization of School Pupils Act, which is legislation designed to protect the health of children."

Ensuring school-aged children are adequately vaccinated is a lot of work for public health officials, Piggott said. But that burden of work is carried out in a collaborative manner to ensure the best access possible for families.

"We see coverage rates jump up significantly when this (public health work) is in place," he said. "In the last few years we've seen more people that are choosing to refuse vaccination for their children, which I think is really unfortunate given how important and life-saving the interventions are."

There is a group of people who have forgotten, or have become complacent, or haven't been able to access vaccines. And that makes the work done by public health officials, even though it is a lot of work, more important to stop measles in its tracks, he said.

"It is really important," Piggott said. "I've worked before in provinces without that kind of legislation and you really miss out on a critical opportunity to make sure our kids are protected against life-threatening illnesses."



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Conservatives and Liberals take the stage

by EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

The Lindsay BIA and the Lindsay Chamber joined forces to offer the only major candidates meeting in the Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes riding on April 15 at the Pie Eyed Monk in the heart of Lindsay.

While all candidates were invited, the only individuals present were Nell Thomas for the Liberal Party and Jamie Schmale for Conservatives.

The event began at 6:30 p.m., and within minutes, it was standing room only, with dozens being turned away at the doors due to the capacity of the space.

With the business-centric hosts, attendees were encouraged to ask questions with specific business angles. Candidates were given one minute to open, up to three minutes to respond to each question, and two minutes to close.

Thomas opened first. "Whatever your political leaning," started the Minden-based physician, "we are here because we know our country is facing a very real threat from the United States. A threat to our economy, to our democracy, to the very existence of our country." She was adamant that Mark Carney's government is not Justin Trudeau's government. "Prime Minister Carney is not a career politician," she said. "I am not a career politician. We are skilled emergency responders, and this is what our country needs right now to build a united, strong, and dignified Canada."

Schmale opened up about his history of being from Fenelon Falls, and his background in journalism, which gave him his first taste of politics. "This is a very important election," he said. "I think each and every one of us knows that."

Following opening remarks, the candidates dove right into questions. The first few questions surrounded arts and culture, specific to Lindsay.

They were then challenged on the carbon tax. Thomas noted that Mark Carney has eliminated the carbon tax, and said that we are already reaping the benefits of that cut. Though she noted it was important to understand the tax in the broader sense of it. "Around the world, there is a pollution responsibility tax that is very effective in many, many countries ..." she said. "My opinion on that is that we can look to those countries where it is very effective at reducing unnecessary use of fuel. We know we are living in a warming climate. Part of that is reducing our consumption of oil and gas."

"No I do not support a carbon tax," retorted Schmale. He referred to the carbon tax as a "cash grab" for the government. He noted that the tax is not done, it is temporarily suspended.

The candidates were then directed towards affordable daycare. Schmale shared his personal experience of trying to get his own child into daycare. "Daycare has become unaffordable," he said. "And we need more spaces. I recognize this is a problem, and it continues to be a problem."

In rebuttal, Thomas noted that the federal Conservative candidate Pierre Poilievre has actually voted against the ten dollar a day daycare offering, which was presented by former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. "Mark Carney has prioritized a number of things that will improve daycare access," she said. "Training of early childhood educators, increasing the number of training programs, and supporting parental leave so we can have (parents) taking time from work to look after the kids at home."

The topic of the CBC came up, in light of Poilievre shar-



Jamie Schmale thanks the attendees at the all-candidates meeting on April 14 at the Pie Eyed Monk in Lindsay. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

ing that he intends to cut funding to the cross-Canada news source. Schmale confirmed that the CBC will remain untouched, "but what we want to see is a change in structure to the CBC," said Schmale.

Thomas called the CBC "one of Canada's most trusted institutions." In an era of misinformation and disinformation is being circulated around the country, including fake AI images used of Mark Carney in an effort to sway the election results, she believes that having a trusted news source is of the utmost importance.

The candidates were then challenged with the question of the national deficit. "Canada has the lowest debt in the G7 countries," opened Thomas. "Our economy expanded by 2.4 per cent last year. Canada is not hurting. We are ranked number two, best country for investment, in the G7 nations." She went on to say that it's important to understand that some of the information presented around this topic comes from the Fraser Institute; a Conservative organization "that is a right wing, incorrect, non-factual source," she said.

Thomas shared that the Liberal Party intends to invest in Canada. "We have this amazing opportunity right now to reimagine this country," she said. She encouraged everyone to go and read Mark Carney's platform around investing in this country.

"You need the right candidate to create investment," said Schmale, during his window to speak. He noted the national debt is over one trillion dollars. "How do you grow a country when you are spending more on debt than you are on health-care," he quipped. "We need to get spending under control while at the same time, growing our economy."

The hot topic seemed to surround crime, and how it is "skyrocketing" across the country. "Petty crime is getting out of control," said Schmale. "And these are repeat offenders. They need jail, not bail." Schmale said he hopes to create a system where "the worst of the worst" are kept behind bars.



Nell Thomas outlines her background and her reasoning for stepping into the role of Liberal candidate for Haliburton - Kawartha Lakes.

Thomas dove into that topic from a different angle. "We need to support the people at risk," she said. "You can't jail yourself out of a problem. Jails are expensive." She noted that in the last 25 years, violent and non-violent crime has dwindled in the country, with the exception of increased crime amongst Indigenous and racialized groups. "What does that tell us about our society?" she asked. "We need to reduce the overall number of people who are slipping into a life of crime ... jail is costly, courts are full, we need to stop this at the front end."

Both candidates encouraged voters to take the time to research the individual platforms of each party and candidate. They were also aligned on getting individuals to stop damages and vandalism to political signs and media. "Keep it classy," said Schmale.

The candidates thanked the organizers for putting the event together, and the attendees for being present. "The fact that you're here means you care about our democracy," said Schmale. He went on to close by saying that he believes crime is increasing, food bank usage has increased, and he hopes to put forward ideas for "how to restore the Canadian dream." He called it "an honour and a privilege" to serve as MP for the past decade, and reminded individuals to vote on election day.

Thomas closed by sharing her backstory a bit. "I didn't set out to be a politician," she said, noting her sense of duty for the community that she cited as guiding her through life. "My heart is with my 1,200 patients in Minden, but my conscience is with the country." Thomas went on to say that she knows the critical issues of this riding, because every day, she is up close and personal with the struggles. "Don't believe that Canada is broken," she said. "We are in unprecedented times. Now is not the time to pit groups against each other and create conflict that divides and weakens this country ... We need a unified and solid Canada."

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COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

April 24 – Regular Council Meeting
May 8 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

SCOTCH LINE LANDFILL – BRUSH DISPOSAL FEES TEMPORARILY WAIVED

To support Minden Hills residents in their cleanup efforts following the recent ice storm, brush disposal fees are being waived until further notice.

During this time, brush will be accepted only at the Scotch Line Landfill, as it is best equipped to handle large volumes. Please ensure you bring your waste disposal card when visiting the site. Advance notice will be provided to residents prior to the reinstatement of disposal fees.

DROP-IN SCHEDULE

The new spring drop-in schedule is available online at www.mindenhills.ca/recreation or in person at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena. Come out and enjoy some of the program options we have available.

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

- *We're Still Talking*, an exhibit of fibre works by local artists Sandi Luck, Nadine Papp and Wendy Wood will be on display until May 10 in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery.
- *We Were Taught Differently (Bakaan nake'ii ngii-izhigakino' amaagoomin)* an exhibit created by The MUSE (Kenora, Ontario) will be on display until June 28 in the Welch Room. The exhibit examines the Indian residential school experience, most particularly in the two schools that were located in Kenora – Cecilia Jeffrey and St. Mary's.
- The UFO (Unfinished Objects) Craft Group will meet in the Welch Room on Friday, April 25th from 1:00-3:00. All are welcome.

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763

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River

IN MINDEN, the Gull River weaves and winds throughout our downtown core. It's what's right in front of us. It's what we see all the time. It tells us the seasons, the time of year, the weather. It contributes to our day-to-day well-being. It pushes and pulls, gives and takes.

Right in front of us.

We can compare the Gull River to our member of parliament. For the past few years, Jamie Schmale has been right in front of us. We see him all the time, contributing (to some extent) to our day-to-day.

And as I watched Schmale dive into an all-candidates conversation with Liberal Nell Thomas, it was apparent that they were the figures chosen to represent our communities. The meeting was in Lindsay, and it was clear that Schmale has his ties to that neck of the woods, while Thomas is intrinsically interwoven into our community here. There are highs and lows to having such a large riding.

But they were right in front of us. The faces we will see on a regular basis for the next four years or more. I believe they both care, perhaps in different ways, about the well-being of their communities, their people.

But there's more to it than that. As we sit with bated breath this time of year while the waters rise, we are reminded that the piece of the Gull that weaves and winds through Minden is only a miniscule part of the entirety of that watershed.

What happens in varying pieces and portions of that snaking system has the ability to impact each and every one of us. Even if we can't see it.

We need to remember that supporting Jamie Schmale is supporting Pierre Poilievre.

That supporting Nell Thomas is supporting Mark Carney.

The pieces of the river that weave and wind on stages far past our corner of the world.

Thomas was adamant that a vote for Carney is not a vote for Trudeau. While they both flew the red flags, Carney carries a lifetime of economic experience, a dedication to the betterment of our country through housing initiatives, medical support, and environmental action. Above all, he sees a country that welcomes all, that includes all, that sees all, that respects all.

I am not sure the same can be said for Poilievre.

In fact, I know it can't be. He's voted against programs that help working families, such as ten dollar a day childcare, school food programs, and dental care for kids. He voted to ban abortions, to raise the retirement age, and will defund the CBC. He does not support the 2SLGBTQIA+ communities, and access to gender-affirming care

and consideration will be taken off the table. While some of these items may not be top of mind for you, they are priority for me and my young family.

So while we like the faces we see here, and they are diligently doing their parts to allow the voices of our community to be heard on a larger political stage, remember that they are part of a bigger river; a waterway of ebbs and flows, where every part plays a role in the day-to-day lives of Canadians, even if we don't see them.

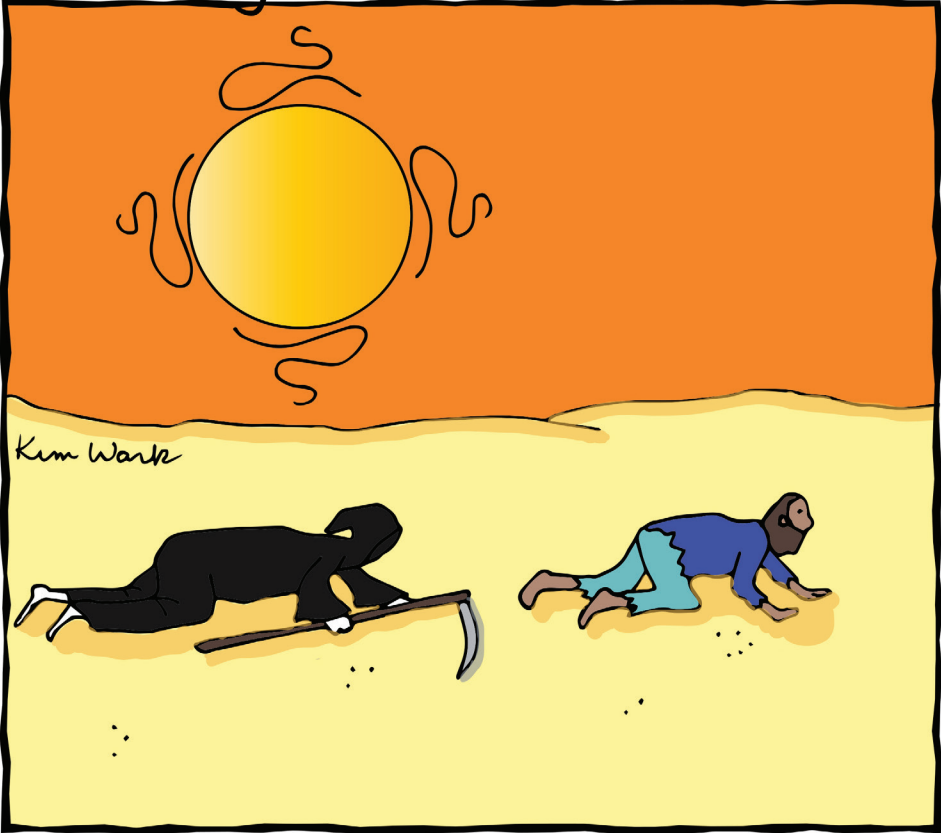
Every vote counts. Every voice matters. And your votes are bigger than a ballot for your community. They are a part of a weaving and winding system that pushes and pulls, gives and takes.

And if we're not careful, what happens in other parts of the river could result in a flood for us.



EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Kwarky



A tale of two openers

THIS IS the time of year when I, like many outdoors enthusiasts, am torn between the outdoors activities I want to partake in on April 25.

That's because, on that day, the Ministry of Natural Resources has cruelly forced us to choose between turkey hunting or trout fishing. In much of southern Ontario, they both open on the 25.

For most hunter/angler types this is kind of like trying to decide which of your children you like best – the one with the feathers or the one with the fins?

This is always a dilemma for me. So much so, that in some years I have hunted turkey in the morning and fished in the afternoon. This is a great way to spend the day. But it can be risky. The sleep deprivation that comes from the preparation the night before and early mornings could conceivably cause you to get so confused that you wear waders and carry a fly rod into the turkey woods. On the flip side, if that same confusion causes you to carry a shotgun to the trout stream at least no one will try to move you off your favourite fishing hole.

To make matters even more complicated for me this year, we bought a new house, and our moving day is the 25. Yes, I know. I wasn't thinking.

Nevertheless, I tried to run the following scenario by Jenn. I told her I'd turkey hunt in the morning and then catch a limit of brook trout on an adjacent stream and be home in time to start moving at 4 p.m.

It sounded reasonable enough to me.

But, apparently, sometimes I have to be an "adult."

Implausible as that seems, there's a first time for everything.

This means I am probably going to have to sit out the first weekend of the trout season in Algonquin Park and miss the first weekend of turkey season too. The turkey part hurts most.

Jenn pointed out that I had the rest of both seasons to make up for these heartbreaks.

To which I replied, "Justice delayed is justice denied", though not loud enough for her to hear.

The worst part of this is that I will be hearing about how great both openers were from friends who have wisely decided not to move on those days. They'll be sending me photos and text messages, and other forms of torture, while I will be slogging boxes marked "upstairs washroom" and such.

I am now at peace with this. I have told myself that sometimes opening day is sometimes not as good as later in the season. Often the weather is more finicky, the woods or streams more crowded or the waters are too high, or the birds are all

henned up.

These of course are weak excuses. Opening day, for turkey and trout are both wonderful. They're not just about the birds and the fish. They are about the preparation, the settings, the company, and the anticipation of hearing that first gobbler sound off or seeing that first trout rise – and they truly do mark the inevitable onset of spring, which also does a person's heart good.

I hope that those who participate enjoy those opening days to the fullest. But please do me a favour. Leave a couple of toms and a few trout for me.



STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

A palliative care community

JUNE CALLWOOD wrote *Twelve Weeks* in spring in 1986, a report on how she and a group of 60 or so people rallied together to allow 68-year-old Margaret Frazer, a single woman without family, to die in the comfort of her own home. They came together to offer around-the-clock company and care in her home for the twelve weeks between when she was discharged from hospital with a diagnosis of inoperable pancreatic cancer, and her death. It also described the process of her dying and its impact on her care-givers. Those who hung in - a few were ejected for not respecting how Margaret was making and managing her path to death (which included, until the very end, robust denial) and some bailed - found it a hugely beneficial experience.

I thought I might succumb to 'good old days' nostalgia, but in fact the book reminded me of what needs to happen when what is necessary is not available, an all-too-current situation. Especially, it seems to me, re: end-of-life care. Which makes very little sense, given the greying of the demography. With age comes death, but apparently the funding priority is prolonging life. And while that is not a bad goal, it rather reeks of our modern aversion to the inevitability of death, and reflects an imbalance in our thinking. Yes live life well as long as you can, but also prepare to die well.



FAY MARTIN

Poke, Peel, Pair, Ponder

So what needs to happen when death comes calling? Margaret Frazer's wish was to live as long and as well as she could in her own home, where the succor of her garden and her music were available to her. There were no self-evident caregivers. Never a partner. One of her sisters was long gone, presumed dead; the other had long been out of touch (and when she did appear, although it was an appreciated gesture, did not make a positive contribution). Margaret left a career teaching high school English at the earliest possible time in order to enjoy life her chosen way: music, birds, gardening, Nellie's shelter for women, the Holy Trinity community. (She helped this atypical Anglican church fight valiantly and successfully to continue to exist in the crook of the Eaton Centre, where it became a beacon of radical Christianity.) When Margaret's diagnosis became known, acquaintances from these disparate worlds formed themselves into a care community. Because they worked in shifts, many only knew each other through comments in the Care Log, even when they gathered at Margaret's funeral three months later.

So that is community at its basic and best.

It would not likely have been successful in supporting Margaret to her death had it not included Dr. Linda Rapson, a palliative care doctor - when that was a very new construct - who broke the cardinal rule about professional distance and became a pivotal and passionate member of the team. As Margaret hung on better and longer than reasonably expected, Linda allowed herself to consider the unscientific possibility that Margaret might survive the cancer, which was Margaret's public and compelling stance until her final days. Linda enforced the credo that Margaret, and Margaret alone, was in charge of managing her death process.

So that's palliative medical care at its basic and best.

It included embracing a not-yet-approved (maybe still not) non-pharmaceutical approach to pain management, the Codetron, a kind of electronic acupuncture wannabe that avoided the dilemma of using opiates to relieve pain but cause constipation which causes pain and kills. And a Jobst boot that massaged fluids out of painfully swollen feet as the circulatory system failed. Augmented by human massage of all types. Callwood conjectures that Margaret was touched more in her dying days than perhaps in her entire prior life; Callwood saw this as achieving and manifesting love of a body going badly wrong.

What about the spiritual aspect? Margaret was a practicing Christian but it seems to me she did not go gently into that dark night. Which bothered me - I want death to be a peaceful transition from here to whatever comes after - and led me to re-view my beliefs.

The process of dying, I think, involves a dividing between the body and the soul; palliative care involves nurturing and empowering the soul so it can take its leave of a body no longer hospitable. That negotiation is visible and to some extent accessible when death is delivered by an aggressive destroyer like cancer. Not so much when the mind departs the body, as in dementia, but best to act as if cognition is there, just not accessible. Negotiation is entirely absent when death is instantaneous, the person felled by an exploding heart or artery, or despatched in an accident.

The best preparation, it seems to me, is seeing death as a logical, inevitable and, at some level, welcome end to life. Which translates into living each day as if it were our last. As Margaret did with the support of her accumulated community.

And that's life at its basic and best.

Minden Memories



A candid sepia photo on white matting. Eddie is wearing a suit with short britches, sitting by a small garden on the lawn playing with a cat and some kittens. /Photo courtesy of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

letters to the editor

Elbows up!

To the Editor,

We should all be so grateful that so many Hydro workers, volunteers, and so many, many others came to the aid of people and townships across the Province in an effort to restore normalcy after that devastating Ice Storm struck. There was much to do and it certainly took some time but, nonetheless, there they were: Canadians from across the country pitching in when help

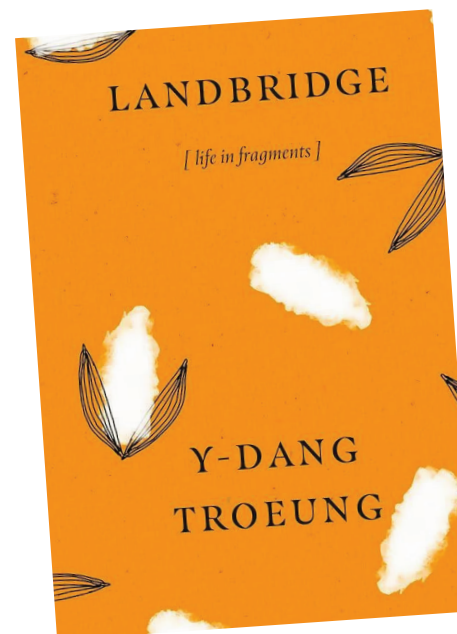
was needed most. It's wonderful to see and we need to be so thankful for them all. Having said that, we shouldn't be surprised : it's what we do !

Elbow's Up !!

Peter Mason
A grateful cottage owner
on Twelve Mile Lake

More letters on page 8

HCPL's Book of the Week



In 1980, Y-Dang Troeung and her family were among the last Cambodian refugees relocated to Canada, their arrival documented with photos of Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau welcoming them. Decades later, Y-Dang revisits this moment—and the hidden truths behind the public narrative of a happy "arrival."

In lyrical prose and striking visuals, she weaves past and present, telling stories of her family's survival through genocide, her childhood in refugee camps and rural Ontario, and, later, her son's illness and her own terminal diagnosis. Through unflinching clarity, she explores refugee identity, the refusal of gratitude, scholarship, and love.

Landbridge by Y-Dang Troeung is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library.

letters to the editor

Small town love for Minden

To the Editor,

Thank you to everyone who came to the Minden Curling Club last week to talk about why this is the most important election of our lifetimes. It was an opportunity for people from all political parties to share questions and answers, to be heard and to be reassured. There is no question, it was an enthusiastic crowd that left the room.

Thank you to the Curling Club and to all of the organizers who made this event happen.

And thank you very much to Dr. Gretchen Roedde, the physician currently covering my Minden patient practice. Your devotion to our community's healthcare is very much appreciated. We benefitted from your contribution to the conversation about current and future healthcare transformation. With creative and solution-oriented leadership, we know these positive and essential changes will happen.

Last week, I shared reasons why I love living in a small town. Recently, I had to deposit a check to my mother's estate account at the TD Bank. The check was made out to "Jenny Thomas," but her bank account was under the name Jane Anne Thomas. The bank teller said she could not deposit the check because the name did not match. Overhearing the conversation, another employee leaned forward and said "I remember working with Nell's mom at the food bank. She went by the name Jenny. I can vouch for that." And the check was deposited.

In the thick of the ice storm, I had neither cash nor gas in my car and I was late for an appointment in Lindsay. I had visited four gas stations between Haliburton and Minden and they all required cash. Parking outside the TD Bank, I was running toward the door when somebody said, "there's not much point Nell; the bank is closed and there is no cash." After hearing my predicament, he and two other people reached in their pockets and handed me some cash, which put gas in my car and got me to Lindsay.

These are just two reasons why I love living in a small town.

I also shared the two reasons that told me stepping up to be the Liberal candidate for this riding was meant to be.

Before I started the application for candidacy with the Liberal party, I placed an ad for coverage of my caseload. And I got a bite. Dr. Roedde said she would be available "whenever you need me."

After the application process was complete, the Liberal party informed me I was the official candidate and that there were no other applicants. If I had not stepped up, there would have been no opposition.

This election is about protecting our country. I know that together we can do that.

Dr. Nell Thomas, Liberal candidate
Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes
Family physician
Minden



NELL THOMAS



Liberal

Candidate For Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes
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UNDERSTANDING RURAL CHALLENGES.

With so much at stake in our country right now, Nell is committed to protecting our Canadian way of life. She knows what families need and how to make things better. Her daily crisis management skills and deep-seated understanding of rural life, business, and the environment fuel her desire to protect this region.



EXPERIENCED, DEDICATED, AND COMMUNITY-FOCUSED.

Having grown up on a subsistence farm north of Huntsville, everything on the table came from the land. From launching the Food Alliance to improving food security, to mentoring future rural doctors at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, Nell continues to help strengthen local food systems, health care, and the economic vitality of rural communities.

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Environment Haliburton plan light pollution talk for Earth Day

by THOMAS SMITH
Times Staff

After her kids were born, Environment Haliburton President Susan Hay sought to take a stand to protect the environment for future generations.

One of her earliest memories of celebrating Earth Day is with her two kids, using an apple to show what percentage of the world has fresh water.

A resident of Haliburton County since 2015, Hay has been president of Environment Haliburton for the past five years.

A smattering of issues that concern EH include reducing the amount of pollution that is generated in our consumer-driven society, awareness of rampant disinformation campaigns paid for by fossil fuel companies, reducing reliance on fossil fuel burning vehicles, and reducing food waste.

“The climate crisis we find ourselves in now is not necessary,” said Hay.

There are many ways for residents of Haliburton County to do their part in combating climate change including adopting a plant-based diet, installing a heat pump system, driving an electric vehicle, and voting for political parties that actively support climate change initiatives, says Hay.

Hay herself has purchased two electric vehicles, with her first-ever electric vehicle being purchased from Curry Motors in Haliburton.

“I’ve been very happy with it,” said Hay. “It doesn’t need oil changes and I know that I am polluting less.”

Fully aware that electric vehicles are not

produced with zero impact through things like mining rare earth metals, Hay says that cycle analyses of electric vehicles show that with extended use, the reduced emission of greenhouse gases exceeds the negative impact from mining.

In January, a delegation from Environment Haliburton made Dysart aware of the Charged for Change grant to install more EV chargers.

Ultimately, their application to the grant was unsuccessful.

There is only one EV charging station in Haliburton. Simply put, there needs to be more EV chargers across the county entirely. More chargers would mean more confidence in reliably charging your vehicle away from home. The more infrastructure that is in place in our communities, the more EVs will be purchased, says Hay.

Environment Haliburton has recognized the need for young people joining their organization and plan on reaching out to local guiding and scouting groups.

“The more I learn about climate change, the more time I want to spend spreading the truth about it,” said Hay. “The longer we don’t act against climate change, the more it is going to cost us.”

Increased storms, such as the ice storm the county recently faced, as well as intense flooding can result from climate change.

Insurance companies have already accepted the risks associated with climate change and have changed many plans accordingly.

People typically fall into four categories when it comes to climate change action. There are dismissives, who do not believe in climate change. Many dismissives have fall-

“

The more I learn about climate change, the more time I want to spend spreading the truth about it.

— SUSAN HAY,
ENVIRONMENT HALIBURTON

”

en for misinformation campaigns and other conspiracy theories.

There are those who are extremely concerned about climate change and regularly read the latest publications on climate sciences, watch EV YouTubers regularly, and have switched to driving an EV.

The most prevalent are those that are moderately concerned. They have heard about climate change and know about it, but do not actively work against it.

Hay says that there is a shocking amount of people in Haliburton County that are still dismissive of climate change.

Environment Haliburton regularly hosts Enviro-Cafes through Zoom. What originally began as tables set up at a church grew to entire educational events.

Offering their Enviro-Cafes over Zoom reduces emissions for people travelling to the event, allows speakers to present from wherever they are located, and attendees do not

have to worry about driving in the dark.

On April 22, for Earth Day, two students from Trent University presented on the impact of light pollution in Haliburton County. The talk was presented by Ella Honey and Angus McBride and was in participation with the U-Links Centre for Community Based Research.

Environment Haliburton is teaming up with the Friends of Ecological and Environmental Learning (FEEL) to organize a Sustainable Shores and Garden event on May 17 and 18 at Abbey Gardens from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. FEEL will be selling native plant species with the proceeds going to the Haliburton-Muskoka-Kawartha Children’s Water Festival. Environment Haliburton will be in attendance to discuss the effect of artificial light on local ecosystems and their impact on beneficial insects.

On August 9, Environment Haliburton will also be organizing an EV Show at the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School. Members from the EV Society will be in attendance and Steve Lapp, a mechanical engineer who specializes in renewable energy systems, will be giving a speech. Drivers of EVs will be around to ask questions and if the driver agrees, people will be allowed to take EVs around for test drives.

“I have found that the best antidote for climate anxiety is action,” said Hay. “The best way to get involved is through a local group.”

Environment Haliburton is a local non-profit currently looking for new members. For those interested, please visit their website environmenthaliburton.org.



Thank you, Ontario.

The recent ice storm was a generational storm that devastated parts of central and eastern Ontario—uprooting trees, collapsing lines, and toppling thousands of poles.

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MH cemetery cleanup has begun

by **THOMAS SMITH**
Times Staff

In respect to our families and loved one's final resting places, the Township of Minden Hills has begun their seasonal cleanup of

cemeteries.

The goal of the cleanup is to ensure decorum and provide a safe space for families and Township workers.

When a plot is purchased in the Township, the purchasers are provided with the by-law information of the cemetery that discusses the

cleanup process, as well as a list of hazardous materials that will be removed if found.

Candace McGuigan, Director of Community Services, assures that all staff of the Township approach any decisions with removing materials from cemeteries in a caring fashion.

With the staff discretion, hazardous materials that can be removed may include non-heat resistant glass, ceramics, corrosive materials, loose stones, sharp objects, trellises, benches, and other furniture.

McGuigan, as well as John Daignault, Supervisor of Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries, tour the cemeteries and assess any repairs that need to be made, items that need to be removed, and damages sustained during the winter that need to be repaired.

Throughout the cemeteries in Minden Hills, ceramic ornaments, glass decorations,

toys, and knives are common adornments for grave sites. If an item poses a danger to trimmers or their equipment, the item will be moved or removed. Families will be notified of any items that are removed and will be held for a time until they are picked up.

This year, the spring cleanup of cemeteries in Minden Hills began on April 17 and will be continuing until April 30.

Cemeteries in Minden Hills include Bethel, Gelert, Minden, and Twelve Mile Lake.

For those wanting to know their rights and responsibilities regarding contracts around cemeteries, the Bereavement Authority of Ontario offers a free consumer information guide on their website thebao.ca.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding a cemetery in Minden Hills, the municipal office can be reached by calling 705-286-1260.

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Thursday, May 1
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How to vote in Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes: everything you need to know

by **JESSICA SLADE**
Special to the Times

If you've been following along over the past few weeks, we've looked at why this election matters - even in a riding that can feel predictable - and how to figure out which party or candidate aligns with your priorities.

Now, with Election Day just around the corner, it's time to get practical. Whether you've had your mind made up for weeks or are still feeling undecided, here's a simple, non-partisan guide to casting your ballot in Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes.

Election Day is Monday, April 28

Polls are open from 9:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. across the riding. If you haven't voted yet, this is your moment - and your voice still matters. Don't let distance, uncertainty, or misinformation keep you from participating.

Where to vote

Your polling location is printed on your voter information card - the white and purple card sent to your home by Elections Canada. If you didn't get one or misplaced it, that's okay. You can still vote. Visit elections.ca or call 1-800-463-6868 to find your polling station.

If you live in a rural area, your polling station may be a bit of a drive. Give yourself extra time - and if transportation is a barrier, consider carpooling with a neighbour or reaching out to a local campaign office, many of which help connect voters with rides to the polls.

What to bring

To vote, you need to prove both your identity and your address. You can:

Bring one piece of government-issued photo ID with your name and address (like a driver's licence),

Or bring two pieces of ID with your name, and at least one with your address (such as a health card and a utility bill),

Or, if you don't have ID, someone from your riding can vouch for you - they just need to be registered and show their own ID.

Yes, you can bring your kids! Voting is an excellent opportunity to model civic participation for your children. You're allowed to bring them into the voting booth with you, and it sends a powerful message that democracy is something we do together. They may not understand all the details, but they'll remember that it matters.

Need time off to vote? You're entitled to it. Under Canadian law, employers must ensure you have three consecutive hours to vote. If your shift doesn't allow for that, your employer must give you paid time off to make it happen. Talk to your employer in advance if you need that time.

Still undecided on how to vote? That's okay. Many voters make their final decision in the last few days. Here's how to approach it:

Think about what matters most to you - housing, healthcare, affordability, climate, rural services - whatever hits closest to home.

Look up party platforms online or use a comparison tool like Vote Compass.

Consider the candidates themselves. Who do you trust to represent your community?

Avoid last-minute misinformation. Stick to reliable, non-partisan sources like Elections Canada, CBC, or your local newspaper.

Bottom line, voting doesn't have to be complicated. You don't need to have all the answers. You just need to show up, bring ID, and make a choice that reflects your values.

Because in the end, democracy only works when we take part in it - together.

See you at the polls.

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Bingo Night, Hosted by the Wilberforce Agricultural Society

When: Friday, May 2, Doors open at 6 pm
Where: Wilberforce in the Lloyd Watson Community Centre
Indulge in custom created beverages, sweet treats and freshly made popcorn before settling in to socialize and enjoy an evening of Bingo at the Wilberforce Lloyd Watson Community Centre. Doors open at 6 pm and the games start at 7 pm. Cash prizes will be awarded. Proceeds support the Youth Ambassador Program. NOTE: CASH only for Bingo card purchases.

Loop Troupe Little Theatre group to host a variety show

When: Evening of May 3
Where: Wilberforce in the Lloyd Watson Community Centre
Looking for Talent, Unique Skills, Bring your Party Tricks! Poets, Acrobats, Puppeteers, Magicians, Mime, Jester, Clown, Wrestlers, Contortionists, Marshal Arts, Singers, Dancers, Comedians, Fiddlers, Actors, Jokesters, Flutist, Guitar Players, Piano Players.
For details and to let us know you might be interested email kcsriley@gmail.com. Proceeds from admission to improve the acoustics in the Lloyd Watson Community Centre.

Garden Start Up and Season Extension

When: May 6, 7 p.m.
Where: Minden Community Centre
55 Parkside St. Minden
Do you love gardening? Join the Minden & District Horticultural Society at the Minden Community Centre, 55 Parkside St. Minden. Guest speaker Jon Faulkner will be discussing 'Garden Start Up and Season Extension', followed by the monthly society meeting.

Downtown Haliburton Sculpture Exhibition – Public Unveiling and Walking Tour

When: Wednesday, May 7, 2 p.m.
Where: Start at the Rails End Gallery
The Haliburton Sculpture Forest and the Haliburton BIA are hosting the 7th annual Downtown Haliburton Sculpture Exhibition this year. Join us at the Rails End Gallery for a walking tour of downtown Haliburton to see the sculptures and meet the artists.

Minden Curling Club Spring Dance

When: May 10, 4:30 to 10 p.m.
Where: Minden Curling Club
Roast Beef Dinner (Vegetarian available)
Dinner and Dance \$45 pp. Music only from 6:30 p.m. \$25 pp. Music by The Recycled Teenagers Lloyd and Susanne Taylor.
Everyone welcome! Tickets available at Let's Get Local & Molly's Market and Bakery or call Wynn Taylor 705-286-3286, Lynda Litwin 705-487-8511, Bob Barron 705-731-7730

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Musical memories

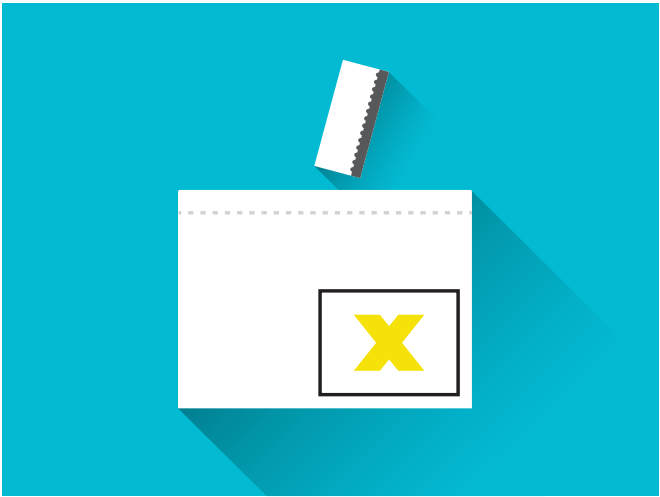
Juno Award winner Celeigh Cardinal wowed the crowd at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion on Saturday, April 19, presented by Haliburton County Folk Society. The show was opened by local musician Jamie McGowan. /TIM YANO staff photographer



FEDERAL ELECTION / MONDAY, APRIL 28


#ItsOurVote

Are you planning to vote?
You can register and vote at your assigned polling station on election day if you:



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Check your voter information card or visit elections.ca to find out where and when you can vote.



Visit elections.ca for the official information you need to vote
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Hal High kicked off their badminton season this past week. Participants from all grades hit the courts. /TIM YANO staff photographer



HAL HIGH SPORTS

Soccer season started for seniors and juniors last week. While the field is still waterlogged, athletes are practicing indoors until warmer weather resumes. /TIM YANO staff photographer



The right to vote; getting young people to the ballots

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Editor

In light of the upcoming federal election, voter turnout is top of mind.

Many are quick to point fingers in different directions about how the votes can make the maximum impact, and often, younger individuals are on the receiving end of the blame game.

It's no secret that voting amongst young professionals has been on a steady decline. According to Elections Canada, in the 2021 federal vote, 75 per cent of folks between the ages of 65 to 74 exercised their civic duty. In a stark contrast, 47 per cent of individuals between the ages of 18 to 24 chose to use their voices.

"Voting is habit forming," says Election Canada. "If a person votes in the first election after they turn 18, they will probably be a lifelong voter. On the other hand, those who do not vote in that first election are unlikely to pick up the habit later in life."

So that young vote is a major one. And with minimal life experience under their belts, these first-time voters are dependent on the education from their family, their friends, and most importantly, their school.

"We are required to run a civics course in Grade 10," says Haliburton Highlands Secondary School vice principal Martin Gage. "It is an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) requirement, so every single student has gone through that course."

The course was revised in September, 2022. The half credit program is designed to help students become informed and active citizens in their communities, with a deep dive into all levels of government. With the reformation of the program in 2022, teachers have incorporated the role of social media into their lessons, and its im-

pact on civic engagement and politics.

Broken into three large categories, the course focuses on political inquiry and skill development, civic awareness, and civic engagement, service, and action.

Beyond the Grade 10 course, the high school also ensures that politics is woven into other grades and programs, such as Canadian History.

Teacher Paul Longo has been working with students in the Grade 12 history program, and has jumped into the complexities of Canadian politics.

Sometimes, the best way to learn is to tackle the topics first hand, and with that in mind, Longo and his class will be hosting a student vote on April 28, to mirror the federal election vote scheduled for that same day. While Longo noted that he cannot force students to vote in the school election, it's a great opportunity to get students involved and interested in the political arenas. Results from the student election will be shared in the newspaper as they are available.

So why aren't young professionals voting? In 2015, Elections Canada conducted a survey to get to the bottom of it. The findings included the facts that students seemed less interested in politics, less strongly that their voices will make a difference (particularly in 'safe' ridings like Haliburton - Kawartha Lakes), the strongly believe that the government does not care what they think, and often, they carry the tendency to see voting as a choice rather than a civic duty.

It was also noted that more youth did not receive a paper voter information card, and were often less aware of the process to register and vote.

Voting is important to do at any age, and any stage. For more information on the coming election, visit www.elections.ca.

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Job fair encourages local kids to tackle the trades

by EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

While the students of Haliburton Highlands Secondary School (HHSS) may go off to explore the world, the Homebuilder's Association wants people to know that there are plenty of opportunities, right here at home.

On April 16, 33 businesses and organizations from across the county set up booths in the high school gym to showcase their offerings. "We wanted to open up everything at multiple levels," said Aggie Tose, the organizer of the event. "We wanted to show all the types of employment that are available right here in Haliburton."

The full-day event was catered to students from ages Grade 8 and up. The organizers coordinated bussing to ensure the senior students from Archie Stouffer could also participate. "It's a pretty hyped up event," said secondary school teacher Renato D'Ambrosio. "There are a lot of trades here, but it's not just the trades," he said. "There are also a lot of volunteer opportunities available for the students to get their volunteer hours."

Andrew Brown of Haliburton Crew custom homes has been attending the event since it started, for three years before the COVID-19 pandemic put the event on pause, and the three events that have occurred following the pandemic. "We really need more people in



The Homebuilders Association jumped into hosting a community job fair for the students of the Haliburton Highlands. Pictured, Kirstley Dams from the County of Haliburton talks about different volunteer opportunities with local students. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

the trades," he said. "With the elections happening now, everyone is promising housing, but no one is thinking about who's going to build those houses."

Brown noted that speaking to the students is key. "We should be talking to these students, and getting them ready to be in the trades," he said.

Other organizations present were Compass Early Years Centre, the County of

Haliburton, local paramedics, police officers, and fire crews. Canoe FM had a booth set up, and were having fun recording students who wanted to practice their 'radio voices' for the station.

Each booth had neon signs indicating whether there were student job openings, co-op opportunities, and/or upcoming volunteer occasions. While some tables had a simplified set-up, others included interactive activities and challenges to get the students involved.

The students were split up by grade, with Grade 9s starting first thing in the morning, and working their way up. Each student was given a scavenger hunt sheet in an ef-

fort to encourage them to open up to the visiting businesses.

"This wasn't here when I went to Hal High," said Eleanor Dobbins of CDH Carpentry LTD. "But it's so great to be able to talk to kids who are interested in this kind of work." Dobbins noted that at that point, CDH had put a number of students through trades school, and intends to continue that for future employees. "We definitely need more people in the trades to be working locally," she said.

For more information on the Haliburton County Homebuilders Association, visit their website at www.hchba.ca.

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	8							
							1	7
7	4	1	3		2		8	6
2					4			
		5					9	
				8		7	3	
			8		6			1
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	6			5	3		2	

Level: Intermediate

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Answers on page 8

SUMMER GUIDE MAGAZINE IS COMING SOON!

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Dawn Mugford-Guay,
Human Resources Coordinator
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Road
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1S0
Email: dmugfordguay@algonquinhighlands.ca



Board of Directors Opportunity

Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents, provides a broad range of services including mental health, child development, youth justice and the Haliburton County Youth Wellness Hub.

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Point in Time seeks, whenever possible, Board members who are representative of the following diversity standards: race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, record of offences, marital status, family status, disability, or consumer of services.

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Board approves 4.7% budget increase

by Andrew Milne

It took four motions, and around an hour, but they came to a decision.

And the verdict is: \$17,197,866 -- the Haliburton County Board of Education's budgeted expenditures for 1995-1996. It represents an increase of just under one percent in overall expenditures, and will mean an increase of between four and five percent over last year's local tax rates.

The reason for the more significant increase to the local ratepayers, the board is quick to point out, is a \$650,000 reduction in the size of the grant received by the board from the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET).

What took so long at the April 25 meeting of the board was a decision regarding three items in particular: a \$35,000 cut from the building maintenance budget, a \$40,000 cut from a computer initiative, and \$100,000 drawn from a reserve set up to pay for legal costs related to social contract negotiations.

In the first resolution the board voted on, the former two items would not have been budgeted, and the \$100,000 would be cut from the reserves. The overall approach, say board members, was to cushion the blow to the local ratepayer, of the reduction in provincial funding.

But several board members had difficulty with this. Craig Pettit, trustee for Glamorgan, Trevor Pawson of Stanhope, and Wendy Ladurantaye of Anson, Hindon, and Minden all spoke to the motion, expressing the concerns (1) that the maintenance budget was too small, con-

sidering the overall value of the buildings in the possession of the board, and that maintenance delayed only becomes more expensive, (2) that the cut from the budget for computer initiatives would very directly affect students in an area in which they are already poorly served, and (3) that cutting the reserve amount would leave the board vulnerable in the event an emergency should arise at a later date for which the money would be needed.

The initial motion failed, narrowly defeated in a vote of seven for, eight against. And then it was down to the haggling. The board tried two more motions, with variations on including and removing these items from the budget.

The motion that eventually passed approved only the amount of the computer initiative -- the \$40,000. The reserves and the maintenance amount were cut.

Many members of the board also expressed concern that the board could even hope to keep the reduction so low in a year in which debentures begin on the additions and renovations to the Archie Stouffer facility in Minden.

Said Pawson, "I think it's really important to remember that we've got half a million dollars in debentures for Archie Stouffer and we've still managed to keep the budget down. I think that if we're able to build beautiful schools but not keep up the schools we already have, in taking the money out of the maintenance budgets I think it is a real mistake. And building nice new schools but not being

(more on page 3)



LOOK WHOOOO'S NEW: Ministry of Natural Resources ornithologist, Ron Pittaway, of the Frost Centre near Dorset, prepares to release a saw-whet owl south of Minden last week. This was one of nine owls reintroduced into the area. For details, see story on page 4.



Me and my shadows

Karen Johnson is joined by a group of friends at CHACE's Minden daycare centre. Johnson was one of several grade seven students from Archie Stouffer Elementary School who spent last Friday "shadowing" individuals in various professions throughout the community. For pictures of other shadows, please see page 7. (Photo by Times shadow reporter Ann Raback)

Minden Hospital status unchanged

by Andrew Milne

Executive director Frank Lussing of St. Joseph's Hospital says that, despite concerns raised by residents of Minden and the local medical community, the in-patient ward of the Minden hospital will remain closed.

Lussing also says he never specifically asked Med-Emerg whether they were interested in providing in-patient care at the Minden hospital, though he felt there was a reluctance on the service's part to get involved.

"I didn't ask them," said Lussing. "It's not in the contract. The contract is for out-patient and emergency services... We talked about in-patient services. And on balance, and because of the views on this end about the need for continuity in physician coverage, we did not include in the contract any expectation of in-patient services."

"Basically," said Lussing, "we're not interested in having Med-Emerg providing in-patient services."

(more on page 2)

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